

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

This Amendment cancels Claim 12; and amends Claim 9. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. In particular, support for Claim 9 is found in canceled Claim 12. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 9-11, 13-14, 16-26, 28, 31-32, 36-52, 54 and 57-58 will be pending in this application. Claims 9, 31, 36 and 57 are independent.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication in the Final Rejection at page 5, section 7, that Claims 10-14, 16-21, 23-26 and 28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants also thank the Examiner for the indication in the Final Rejection at page 6, section 8, that Claims 31-32, 36-52 and 54 are allowable over U.S. Patent No. 6,409,860 ("Fickeisen") and for the indication in the Final Rejection's Office Action Summary that Claims 31-32, 36-52 and 54 are allowed.

Claims 9 and 22 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1 and 7 of Fickeisen. Claim 22 depends from Claim 9. Allowable Claim 12 is canceled and incorporated into independent Claim 9. Thus, the obviousness-type double patenting rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.


Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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